Rice subsidy for Sri Lankan refugees

2351. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had withdrawn the rice subsidy scheme for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Tamil Nadu had demanded restoration of rice subsidy for Sri Lankan refugees; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India have discontinued provision of subsidized ration to Sri Lankan refugees in Refugee Camps in Tamil Nadu *vide* orders issued on 5th August, 2005.

The Government of Tamil Nadu was requested (*inte-alia*) in June, 2005 to furnish instructions (if any) for indefinite supply (beyond 3 months) of subsidized rice to Refugees in Refugee Camps. The Government of Tamil Nadu have not been able to provide instructions for indefinite supply of subsidized rice to Refugees in Refugee Camps. Nor has this Ministry been able to locate any such instructions.

The Ministry of Labour & Rehabilitation, Department of Rehabilitation's letter No.1 (7)/73-RH.I dated 10th September 1973, which is quoted by the Government of Tamil Nadu as the basis for claiming reimbursement for Refugees in Refugee Camps, was specifically applicable for Repatriates in one Transit Camps, at Mandapam. However, the same was made applicable to Refugees in Transit Camps by Ministry of Labour & Rehabilitation's letter No.1(26)/83-RH.I dated 19th December, 1983.

Under the said letter of 1973 & 1983, subsidized ration and cash doles were made admissible (with conditions specified therein) for a maximum period of 3 months only, and in only Transit Camp/s.

The practice of (indefinitely) providing subsidized ration and cash doles to Refugees in Refugee Camps has been continuing (irrespective of whether or not specific instructions in this regard are available).

The system of supply of subsidized ration to refugees from Food Corporation of India (FCI), through Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC), and subsequent reimbursement to the State Government, is administratively cumbersome. From the financial aspect, utilisation certificates/audit certificates for the expenditure incurred by the Government of Tamil Nadu on supply of (*interalia*) subsidized ration are unduly delayed.

Refugees also earn and have free movement (for their livelihood) outside the Refugee Camps.

The rates of cash doles (irrespective of whether or not specific instructions to make them applicable to Refugees in Refugee Camps or to extend them beyond 3 months are available or not) have been periodically revised.

As per the Government of India's letter of 1973 the amount to be charged from the beneficiary was fixed at 57 paise per kilogram, and the difference upto the actual sale price of the cheapest variety fit for consumption as avaiable in Fair Price Shops was to be borne as subsidy by Government of India. Thus, the amount to be charged was fixed in absolute terms and not even as a percentage of the actual sale price of the cheapest variety fit for consumption. Due to this lacuna in the Government letter of 1973 the sale price of the cheapest variety fit for consumption kept on steadily increasing ove the years, thereby increasing the amount of subsidy every year.

Having regard to the above, the practice of supply of subsidized ration in Refugee Camps, with concomitant administrative/financial problems, and with the inherent lacuna in the letter of 1973, was appropriate to be discontinued.

Therefore, irrespective of the fact whether Government of India's orders for indefinite supply of subsidized ration to Sri Lankan refugees exist or not, provision of subsidized ration to Sri Lankan Refugees in Refugee camps was discontinued with immediate effect *vide* orders issued on 5th August 2005. However, Sri Lankan refugees staying in refugee camps have been allowed to be provided the facility to purchase rice from Fair Price Shops at the prescribed rates (i.e., at normal Fair Price Shop rates).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in her letter dated 23rd August 2005 had requested Government of India to restore the rice subsidy for the refugees in Refugee Camps.

The matter was re-examined. It was found that there was no case for re-consideration on the decision of discontinuing subsidized rations for refugees in Refugee Camps.

Expansion of CISF

2352. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CISF had grown large and unwieldy recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that CISF has undertaken diverse protection duties without any specialisation being imparted to its Jawans;

(c) what steps are proposed to put a limit to the growth of the CISF;

(d) whether it is also a fact that top management of CISF is unable to control the behaviour of Jawans in CISF; and

(e) the measures proposed to split the CISF into different bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a), (b) and (d) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(e) There is not such proposal.

Delhi based NGOs receiving foreign aid

2353. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Non-Governmental Organizations working in Delhi/New Delhi are receiving foreign aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof togetherwith field of work and foreign institutions/persons giving and taking such aid; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to monitor the activities of such Non-Governmental Organizations?